

the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

August/September 2005

Upwardly Mobile

Work progresses on the elevated expressway being built on US-6/West Dodge Road in Omaha. As construction crews continue to build piers, set girders and pour concrete for the deck, traffic flows on the roadway below.

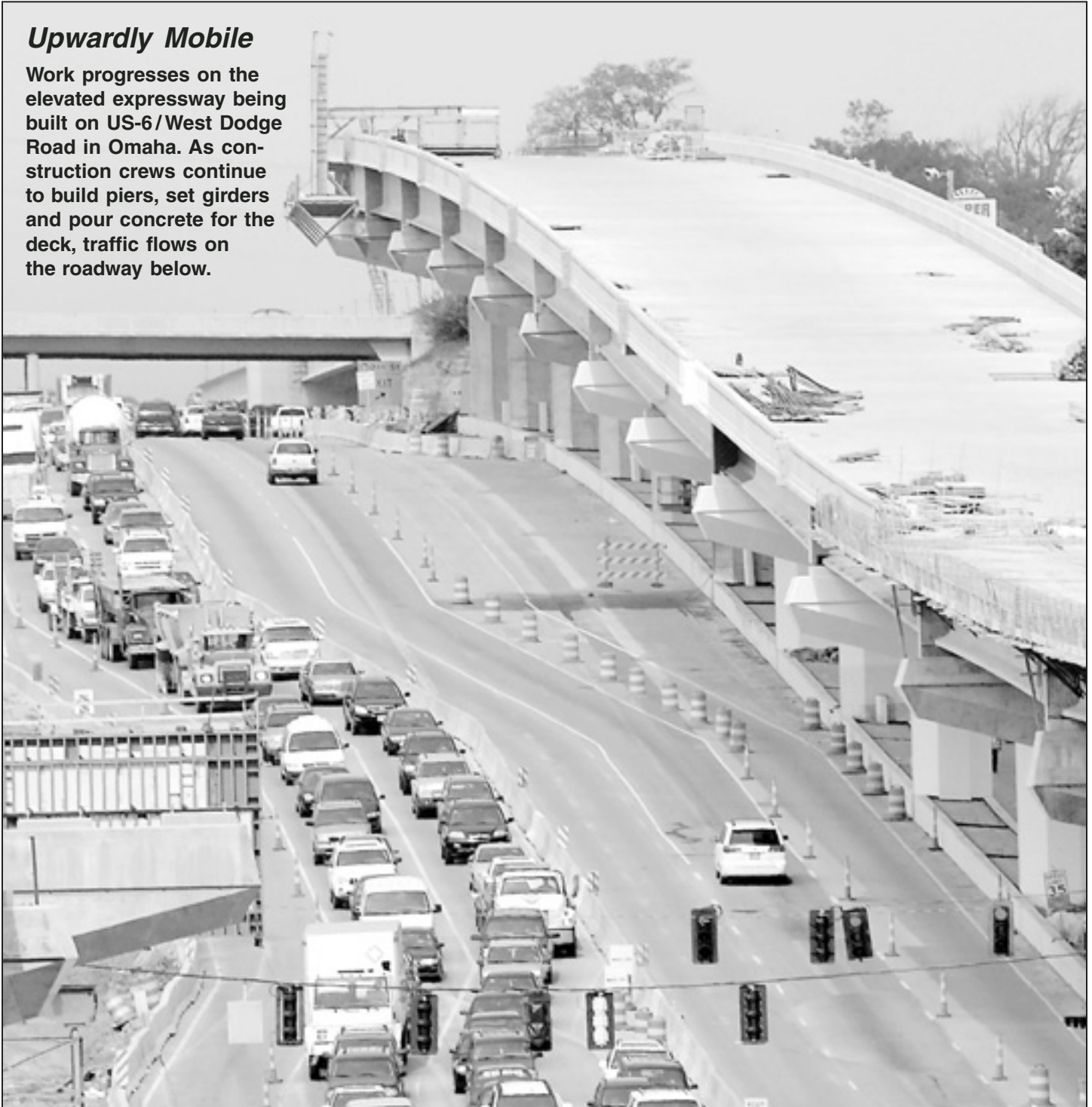


Photo by Jay Bailey

the Roadrunner

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District 7Kurt Vosburg

District 8.....Mark Kovar

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The information in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



Characters I Have Known

By Randy Needham

Right-of-Way Manager



Randy Needham

Roy Weichel was a Right-of-Way Buyer when I went to work for the Right-of-Way Division many years ago. He was quite a figure with his ever present ten-gallon hat and cowboy boots. He was a big man and his attire made him look even bigger. Roy had spent his whole life in highway construction and had even worked on the AlCan Highway during World War II (had pretty much been in charge of the whole project, according to him). I'm not sure how or

why he'd become a right-of-way buyer, but there he was and he was assigned to teach me a thing or two about the trade.

I learned a lot from Roy, especially how to read cross sections. Roy and I were sent to some little town out along Highway 30 to buy the right-of-way needed to improve the road that went down to the Interstate (Roy would do the buying and I'd do the learning). The first property owner we called on claimed that our design was faulty because it didn't provide for proper drainage along the front of his property. At this point, Roy said we'd get the cross sections from Lincoln and bring them out to prove him wrong.

The next week we spread the x-sections and P&P's (plans & profiles) out on the bed in Roy's motel room, and Roy proceeded to teach me how to read the plans. He showed me how to determine the scale and the elevations at different points and all the other things needed to understand the plans and drainage patterns. Then he said, "this is how we'll prove that guy wrong. You determine the elevation at the outlet end of that culvert under the railroad and then determine the elevation of the bottom of the ditch at his south property line. The difference in elevation is called the drop and it will show that our design is correct." The rest of the conversation went something like this:

Roy: "So what's the elevation at the culvert?"

Me: "1,210.5 msl (mean sea level)."

Roy: "And how far is it to the owner's south property line from that culvert?"

Me: "About 2,600 feet."

Roy: "And what's the elevation of the bottom of the ditch at the owner's south property line?"

Me: "1,210.5 msl."

Roy: Silence.

Me: "That's pretty flat, isn't it, Roy?"

Roy: "I guess we'd better go back to Lincoln and talk to the folks in Design before we go see that property owner again."

A little over a year later we went back with the new plans that showed some "drop" in the ditch over the 2,600 feet. The owner wouldn't sign anyway and it still ended up in condemnation.

B.O. McBride (his first name was Bernard, I never did know his middle name and I never heard anybody call him anything but B.O.) was another of the old-time buyers. They sent me with B.O. to Schuyler one time to learn some more about the right-of-way buying business.

B.O. and I called on a husband and wife on the north edge of Schuyler. Their house was on the east side of the highway, and they also owned a large vacant lot across the east/west city street to the north. There was a fairly narrow right-of-way designed in front of the house and a wider one across the vacant lot. After B.O. had explained the plans and made the offer, the following ensued:

Owner: "Now Mr. McBride, I know the reason the right-of-way is wider on our vacant lot is to dig a wide ditch to store water in because your engineers can't figure out how to make things drain."

See **Characters** on page 3

Jaber Appointed New PS/PM Engineer

Khalil Jaber is the new Project Scheduling and Program Management Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads. Jaber, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Roger Winkelhake, who retired July 8 with 42 years of state service, 13 years as Project Scheduling and Program Management Engineer.

For 14 years, Jaber has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as Public Transportation Engineer at the department's Lincoln headquarters for the past two years.

Born in Palestine, Jaber earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University in 1986. From 1986 until 1989, he worked as a Grading Engineer for a contracting company in Amman, Jordan.

Jaber began his career at NDOR in 1990, working as a Project Manager in the District 5 headquarters in Bridgeport. In 1995, he moved to

Lincoln and worked in the Roadway Design Division's Expressway Section, serving as a Project Engineer until 1997 and as a Design Consultant Coordinator until 2003.

During his tenure at NDOR, Jaber said he has most enjoyed working

with people and being able to help and support them along the way. He has especially enjoyed celebrating their successes.

In discussing goals he would like to achieve in his new position, Jaber said, "I am a student of change and truly believe if we are not changing, we are not improving. So, as I continue practicing teamwork, one

of my goals is to elevate Project Scheduling and Program Management Section to a level that meets present and future needs."

Jaber said his management philosophy is very simple: "Set expectations by defining clearly the outcome, motivate by focusing on strengths and managing around weaknesses, and steer individuals towards roles that truly fit them."



Khalil Jaber

Jaber and his wife, Carol, have been married 15 years. They have two children, Ramsey, 12 years old, and Hana, 10 years old. In his spare time, Jaber enjoys traveling, reading, playing soccer and golfing.

Roger Winkelhake Retires

Born and raised in Talmage, Nebraska, Roger Winkelhake graduated from Talmage High School in 1961. He became a registered professional engineer in Nebraska in 1971.

Winkelhake began his career at NDOR on September 24, 1962, and served in a variety of engineering positions at several central headquarters locations in Lincoln, including Roadway Design, 15 years; Consultant Services and Utilities, 15 years; Project Scheduling and Program Management, 13 years. In 1992, he was appointed Project Scheduling and Program Management Engineer.

During retirement, Winkelhake and his wife, Iris, plan to spend time traveling, and participating in family activities. He will also spend time with his hobby of coin collecting. ♦

Characters *(cont'd. from page 2)*

B.O.: "No, Mr. Jones (or whatever his name was), I assure you that our engineers do know how to make things drain and they would never do something like that."

Owner: "Mr. McBride, you are a nice man and I like you, but I'm right and you're wrong on this matter. What I'm saying is true. Your engineers are designing a place to store water."

B.O.: "Mr. Jones, I don't know exactly why that right-of-way is wider, but again I assure you it's not because our engineers don't know how to make this drain. We have the best engineers there are down in Lincoln, and I'll obtain from them the engineering reasons why we need that land and let you know next week."

Later, in the Lincoln Design Office:

B.O.: "Now Mr. Designer, just exactly why

do we need this wide right-of-way on these nice folks' land?"

Designer: "Why, that's for that water storage area. I couldn't figure out how to make things drain there."

The point in telling these "drainage" stories is not to berate Roadway Design, but to say that when a property owner tells you something, don't dismiss it out of hand. Give it ample consideration and do some investigating if it seems warranted. I could describe many more times in my career when the property owner was "right" and we were "wrong."

These two characters I've described, and many more like them, were people I learned many valuable things from, not only about work but about life. In the modern parlance, they were

my mentors. They didn't know they were mentors and I didn't know I was a mentee, but they were and I was.

So, a word of advice to the younger generation beginning their working careers here at NDOR. If you know someone that has knowledge that you need or that is just interesting to you, make their acquaintance, strike up a conversation and have a dialogue. You don't have to tell them that they are your mentor and you are their mentee, although you certainly can. If it is a good mentor/mentee relationship, you will learn from them and they will also learn from you, for, just because we're old, it doesn't mean we can't learn.

And a final word of advice: While you're at it, have some fun. ♦

Aerial view of the recently completed West Dodge Road and Nebraska Highway 31 interchange.



Elkhorn Bridge Showcases Unique Design

Part of the work on West Dodge Road and the Nebraska Highway 31 interchange involved the U.S. Highway 6 Bridge over Highway 31 in Elkhorn. This 206.7-foot bridge provides the structure for the single point urban interchange. It is the longest single span prestressed/post tensioned concrete girder bridge in Nebraska and perhaps the United States. This bridge was voted by the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) as the co-winner in the category of bridges with spans longer than 135 feet.

Construction on the bridge began in November 2003 and was completed in October 2004 with only minor work remaining. Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha was awarded the \$18,371,814 contract, with the bridge costing \$834,574.

The bridge is comprised of a single span with no intermediate supports (piers). The concrete girders are precast, prestressed and post

tensioned. Each girder is too long to have been fabricated and shipped in one piece. It was therefore made in three segments that were set on temporary supports at the site. The segments then were joined together by pouring "wet joint" type splices. The concrete was allowed to cure in the splices until they had attained their required strength of 6,000 pounds per square inch.

After this, 5/8-inch diameter steel strands were threaded through the ducts precast in the girders. Three ducts were cast in each girder with 15 strands per duct. These strands, called tendons, were then tensioned to approximately 44,000 pounds each. The tendons add tensile strength to the structure, as concrete is strong in compression but weak in tension.

The biggest problem that occurred while constructing the bridge was the wet joint splices, according to Marty Weander, NDOR Project Manager. Of the 56 splices, 13 had to be removed

and repoured because they did not achieve the required strength.

There was no formal partnering program with this project, but weekly meetings were held with interested parties to discuss progress and potential problems. According to Weander, Elkhorn is pleased with the project.

"The bridge is within the city limits. The new interchange opens up the area, greatly improves safety for the motoring public, and eliminates stop signs and awkward ramps. The bridge was completed eight months early and we were able to maintain one lane of traffic north and south on Highway 31 during construction."

Fouad Jaber and Dennis Boyd of the Department of Roads' Bridge Division were the design team for this bridge. Mo Assadi, George Collins, Adam Sleeper and Christine Hansen of the Department of Roads' District 2 construction office were the inspection team on this project.

"They all played an important part in this project," Weander said. Hawkins' general superintendent for this project was Paul Huntimer, and the bridge superintendent was Matt Storey. ♦



Above - Recently completed U.S. Highway 6/West Dodge Road Bridge over Nebraska Highway 31 in Elkhorn.

Right - Grading is in progress on Nebraska Highway 31 in preparation for widening the roadway and constructing a new bridge.



NDOR's Automated Permit System Customers Enjoy Benefits

Since February 2004, customers applying for overweight and over dimensional permits for use on Nebraska's highway system have been able to log on to the automated permit system at NDOR's website, www.dor.state.ne.us.

According to Ellis Tompkins, NDOR's Rail & Public Transportation Engineer, this system has been well-received over the past 17 months due to its increased efficiency and ease of use.

"Currently, about 60 percent of our single trip permits are being done by the customer entirely over the Internet. They can go online to get their permit 24 hours a day and can receive it within a matter of a few minutes."

According to Tompkins, the acceptance and use by customers has been higher than anticipated. He noted that Nebraska's system is unique compared to other states because NDOR allows customers to get a simple permit over the Internet with no assistance by clerks. Everything is done by the customer, including applications, routing and payment.

With 300 to 400 permits issued a day, this automated permit system has also allowed clerks to spend more time with the detailed review of some of the more complicated load permits, Tompkins added.

Another feature customers enjoy is the ability to store information about their vehicles in the system, especially if they have more than one vehicle. When it's time to get a permit, they pull up their saved information and make the proper selection that automatically fills in all the required spots on the permit application.

Tompkins noted, "When everything was done manually, there were a large number of incomplete applications. The system no longer allows that to happen. Not only is that good for us, but it's also protection for the

customer to ensure they haven't forgotten something if they are stopped by a Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement officer. Also, the officers have Internet access and can verify information on the system."

Ron Kontos, Motor Carrier Permits Manager, said that when the system was developed, the concept of the customer being able to route anywhere on any highway system was

something new and unique to the industry. A great deal of effort was made to ensure the system was user-friendly.

Kontos added, "With a significant percentage of our customers using the system, this says to us that our initial steps have basically been successful in that respect. We want to continue this success with as much attention to customer service as possible."

While customers have a pretty good handle on the basics of the system, Kontos said more information is available on routing than is being utilized. Because of this, plans are underway to dedicate more support staff to assist companies who want to enhance their knowledge of the system.

"As we continue to make enhancements to the automated routing system, we are going to take a more aggressive approach of getting that information out to the customers and working with them on some of those enhancements," Kontos said.

Credit Card Payments

Customers also appreciate the convenience of using their credit cards to pay for permits, with 31 percent of revenue for the automated permit system generated from the use of credit cards from January 1, 2005 to June 8, 2005, according to Kontos. While a significant number, Kontos said they had anticipated an even

greater number of customers would make the switch. The majority of customers still have escrow accounts for making payments and they can now check the system for balances in their accounts, Kontos noted.

"This has been a huge advantage for customers to be able to manage funds in their accounts, and it has also allowed a better system of recordkeeping for us," Kontos said. He added that NDOR's efficiency has greatly

increased with the ability to access a variety of data and reports within the system.

Another aspect that has been very successful is the bridge analysis, according to Tompkins. This is required for all overweight loads. Once the customer enters the required information about their load, selects a route and presses "analyze," every bridge on the route is analyzed within a matter of seconds, compared to half a day required prior to the new system.

According to Tompkins, "The bridge analysis has worked fantastic and has probably been one of the biggest plusses of the system. Before this system was in place, NDOR's Bridge Division had to look at 8 to 10 heavy loads each day. Now they only need to look at very big or unusual loads. For increased efficiency and for the safety of our highway system and bridges, this has been a huge plus."

Because of NDOR's success with this permit system, Tompkins noted that other states have considered adopting similar systems that are fully automated, allowing customers to do everything themselves.

"Our customers really like this aspect of NDOR's automated permit system, along with the convenience of being able to go online to get their permits 24 hours a day. It is definitely a big advantage." ♦

"We want to continue this success with as much attention to customer service as possible."

- Ron Kontos, Motor Carrier Permits Mgr.

We Get Letters ...

May 5, 2005

Tim Weander
District 2

Dear Tim,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support and cooperation your staff at the Plattsmouth Shop has given my department. Bob King and all the other technicians are consistently upbeat and positive to every request and are always a real pleasure to work with. The recent upgrade of Rock Bluff Road by the county required extensive rerouting of traffic, which not only impacted the county road system, but also State Hwy. 75 as well. Bob immediately took the ball and ran with it, coming up with the lighted message sign as well as helping out with other detour signage. It is due in no small part to your staff's efforts that the two-week closure of this highly traveled county road not only resulted in no significant traffic incidents, but not one complaint by the traveling public.

Too often we can get tunnel vision and become obsessed with whose responsibility doing something is. It is very refreshing to work with Bob and his people in that their primary concern is what needs to be done to improve service to the public, and never have I heard them respond with, "That's not my job."

Please pass on my appreciation and I look forward to continuing to work with your department.

Randy Wilkins, Hwy. Superintendent
Cass County Department of Roads
Plattsmouth, Nebraska

June 15, 2005

To the NDOR,

My husband and I went on a trip west and traveled many states. I want to thank your state for all the many nice rest areas you have and the friendly people working them. We are from Illinois and our rest stops are very few. Utah was next to yours. This sure made our long trip enjoyable and we made it a point to come back on I-80 through Nebraska. Thank you.

Walt and Barbara Davis
Ottawa, Illinois

June 13, 2005

Dear Governor Heineman,

I work as a "Vacation Guide" at the Ogallala eastbound and westbound visitors centers at the rest stops. Last week, on two occasions, I had travelers comment that the highways in Nebraska were the best they had driven on since they left their home state. Their comment was, "someone knows how to build roads in this state." I agreed with them and wanted to pass that on to you.

We also receive many comments on how very nice our rest areas are, and that they are much appreciated. Another visitor from the state of Wisconsin said that they thought our state was a very beautiful state.

It is encouraging when we receive these comments from travelers. I wanted to share them with you, and hope that those responsible for maintaining our wonderful highways hear about this also.

Shirley Ruser
Ogallala, Nebraska

May 12, 2005

District 2 headquarters,

This is a note of thanks. On May 10, I had a flat tire on I-80 going east right before the 42nd Street exit. An Omaha police officer attempted to help me change the tire, but it was frozen and would not come off. After making sure I had a tow truck coming to get me, the officer left. While sitting and waiting, Tony Trout and Jack Buscher saw me stranded and stopped to see what assistance I needed. Tony had my tire changed within two minutes. When my car would not start up from sitting there three hours, Tony radioed some co-workers who brought jumper cables. I want to thank the four gentlemen who took the time to help me. I didn't need the tow truck. Thank you for the kindness.

Dianna Carda
Omaha, Nebraska

Editor's Note: Tony Trout and John Buscher, Sr. are both Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr. at the Omaha 108th St. Maintenance office.

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

Rewards & Recognition

April, May, June 2005

Employees & Managers of the Quarter

Employees	Managers
District 1 Steve Kelle Hwy Maint Crew Chief Palmyra	None
District 2 To be announced	To be announced
District 3 Dean Schwartz Hwy. Dist ROW Permits Officer Norfolk	Anthony Dirks Engineer III Norfolk
District 4 Dave Anderson IT Infrastructure Support Analyst Grand Island	Carlos Campa Hwy. Maintenance Supvr. Kearney
District 5 Kelly Walker Hwy. Construction Tech II Chadron	Scott Rajewich Hwy. Maintenance Supt. Scottsbluff
District 6 Betty Sturgis Hwy Maintenance Worker Sr. Broken Bow	None
District 7 Gary Hartwell Hwy. Construction Tech III McCook	Jerry Quinn Hwy. Project Manager Holdrege
District 8 Dewey Pongratz Hwy. Construction Tech III O'Neill	Chuck Osborn Hwy. Maintenance Supvr. Ainsworth
Central Headquarters Charlie Bowlby Secretary II Rail & Public Transportation	Mark Hamilton Facility Maintenance Mgr. I Logistics
Greg Delp IT Infrastructure Support Tech Planning & Proj. Development	Nancy Loos Hwy. Contracts Supervisor Construction

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *August and September*.

50 Years

Barbara Norris, Controller

40 Years

Ronald Bohling, Materials & Research
Thomas Rohn, Roadway Design

30 Years

Scott Brummond, District 3
Patricia Brunken, Roadway Design
Mikel Harring, Bridge
Charles Hoster Jr., Traffic Engineering
Daryl Lutes, District 4
Bruce Ramsey, Materials & Research
Michael Rudnick, District 8

20 Years

Russell Eichelberg, District 2
Richard Gergen, District 4
Velda Graff, District 4
Richard Landgren Jr., District 5
Theresa Ma, Materials & Research
Kerry Scott, District 7
Donald Simpson, District 7
Kirk Strong, District 2

10 Years

Gary Hibberd, District 4
Ed Kelley, Information Systems
Raymond Mora, District 4
Gretchen Mueller-Neeman, Right-of-Way
Charles Osborn, District 8
Robert Sittre, District 8
Chad Stetson, District 5

A Rewarding Thought

*"The intelligence of the team
exceeds the intelligence of
the individuals in the team."*

— Peter Senge, *The Fifth Discipline*

**Brought to you by the Rewards
& Recognition Agency Panel.**

Nomination forms can be found at
<http://www.dor.state.ne.us> on the
Human Resources page.

Recommended Reading

More good books as recommended by Director John Craig

"Confessions of a Civil Servant: Lessons in Changing America's Government and Military," 2003, by Bob Stone. A relatively short and easily read book that I could identify with. An outstanding read on how to do things better, faster and at less expense in large, bureaucratic organizations. Many of the lessons stem from the National Performance Review done during the Clinton Administration and chaired by Vice President Al Gore. Tom Peters, author of *"In Search of Excellence"* and other great books, is quoted as saying, "This may be the best text ever on large-scale organizational change. Anywhere." Mr. Stone clearly capitalized on the strategy that if you want to know the truth, go to the field or to the people doing the work and they will tell you. I find it impossible to simplify the lessons on leadership discussed continually by Mr. Stone. It is a human venture to lead, and each of us devises our own ways for doing this. However, in an attempt to give some idea of the author's philosophy, he summarizes ten lessons for leadership in the next-to-the-last chapter. They are: be pleasant, be trusting, be bold, be uplifting, be positive, be enabling, be controlling, be unreasonable, be clear and think three. These ten lessons have to be read and understood and not interpreted from these headings alone. A book that I highly encourage any public employee to read.

"The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness," 2004, by Stephen R. Covey. This book drags on a little in its 410 pages, but it is a terrific read. Mr. Covey is perhaps most famous for his *"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."* This new book essentially synthesizes his previous book into more concise and understandable lessons. There is also a DVD included which provides movies to further explain his points. I have not viewed them. Somewhat of an oversimplification, much of the book could be summarized in two words: focus (what is important) and execution (making it happen). At one point Covey talks about just this simplification. Throughout the book, the author continually returns to one basic paradigm: people are whole people and they are an amalgam of body, mind, heart and spirit. These are things that are at some point impossible to separate out except as an academic exercise. We are who we are. The central theme of this book is that leadership is a choice and not a position. That is difficult to remember when we're in the trenches, but we are all responsible for our own behavior and the unleashing of our own human potential. Another great read on leadership.

"Just Enough: Tools for Creating Success in Your Work and Life," 2004, by Laura Nash and Howard Stevenson. Full of valuable content and lessons, this was the most difficult of these books for me to read. Both authors are faculty at the Harvard Business School and, if

anything, provide a thorough discussion of the subject. The basic theme of this book is that a great many people are forever striving for something that they will never achieve, in part, because they have never defined that something. In many ways, we have "too much excess." That can result in a lack of satisfaction and success. In effect, success can be a "moving target." So, the question then becomes, what is enough to make you (or organizations) satisfied and successful? The authors assert a "kaleidoscope strategy" built around and measured in four categories: happiness, achievement, significance and legacy. In effect, life is a balance of many things. Somewhat surprisingly, there is little discussion around what "grounds us" as organizations and individuals, such as values. For me, this was a difficult book to read, so be aware of that. However, your experience may be better than mine.

"The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century," 2005, by Thomas L. Friedman. I'm always a bit nervous trying to summarize (and generalize of necessity) what someone else has spent great effort to produce. So, at the risk of oversimplifying Mr. Friedman's newest book, here goes. Another outstanding book written by Mr. Friedman, *"The Lexus and the Olive Tree"* (reviewed in the June/July 2004 Roadrunner) defines the world as one global economy. In his new book, Friedman frames the world as increasingly competing, not only country against country, but business against business and individual against individual to "do more with less" through the rapidly evolving technologies such as the Internet, cell phones, etc. He argues that China and India, due to their cheap labor coupled with their intellectual capital (Friedman says "follow the brains not the money"), are very rapidly closing the economic gap with what we loosely call "Western society." Even in NDOR we are impacted by China's consumption of world resources such as petroleum, steel, cement, etc. This can seem a bit depressing, but the author also makes a great argument that those countries and companies that are able to leverage each other and their co-dependent supply chains will raise the standard of living of all. This is a worldwide change from command and control (vertical organizational structures) to collaboration, cooperation and connection. He appropriately calls the United States ignoring this shift as the "Quiet Crisis" lest the country does something about it. The "crisis" is not immediate but surely is taking place. He draws his book to a close by asserting that the United States must begin to simultaneously produce increasing numbers of scientists and engineers to bring dreams and imagination to reality for the benefit of the United States and the world. A thought-provoking book worth reading.

First Guide Meridian East Boundary Commemorated

By **Gene Thomsen**
Deputy State Surveyor

One hundred fifty years ago the boundary between Nebraska and Kansas Territory was surveyed beginning at the center of the Missouri River and running east to a point six miles south and one mile east of Liberty, Nebraska. This point eventually became the boundary between Gage and Pawnee counties on the state line. To mark this location a limestone rock that measured 48 inches tall, 22 inches wide and 6 inches thick was partially buried in the virgin prairie.

The stone marks the starting point of Nebraska's first north-south surveyed line, which is called the First Guide Meridian East of the 6th Principal Meridian. This meridian line was established on a True North direction and today marks the eastern boundaries of Gage, Lancaster and Dodge counties and the western boundaries of Pawnee, Johnson, Otoe,

Cass and Washington counties. This line intersects the Missouri River just west of South Sioux City, Nebraska. The purpose of this meridian line was to establish all of the townships and section lines, east to the Missouri River.

One Saturday in May, Jerry Penry (a registered surveyor for Lancaster County) and I took a trip to this location and met two surveyors from Kansas and three surveyors from Beatrice, Nebraska, which included Bill Wehling, Sr. (Roadway Design's Bill Wehling, Jr.'s father). The idea was to find the stone's location and make plans for celebrating the 150th anniversary of its establishment. Preliminary investigation revealed (after digging down three feet), that the top 18 inches of the original stone had broken off many years ago — probably the work of a motor grader when the road was first built.

The plan was to place a specially marked brass cap on top of the stone

and lay a six-inch concrete pad over that. The position of the cap would be protected by a cast iron sleeve or monument box encased in concrete. The remaining depth would be filled with the rock, gravel and dirt that was excavated from the hole and would give many years of protection from the blade of another motor grader.

To commemorate the event on June 24, 2005, approximately 150 people gathered at the remote intersection on the state line to witness the placement of a brass cap survey marker drilled into the top of the corner by Jerry Penry. The first batch of concrete was mixed and placed by retired Department of Roads' land surveyor Art Witkowski. A group of surveying history buffs measured a mile using old survey chains of 66 feet and 100 feet to retrace the footsteps of the original surveyors. Doing so gives one an indication of why it was such a challenging task to measure each mile. By using the tools of the day, retracing the mile gives a person the utmost respect for the original surveyors who measured all of those section lines throughout the state. ♦



About 150 people gathered to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the placing of the First Guide Meridian East stone on the Nebraska-Kansas border. An antique Gurley surveying compass was on display for onlookers.



Top - A 3.5-inch brass cap, like the one shown here, was drilled into the top of the original First Guide Meridian stone.

Above - A protective casing was placed over the brass cap and concrete was placed around the casing. The remaining depth was filled with rock, gravel and dirt to give many years of protection.

Job Directory

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract as of 7/21/05

Location
Work Description
Prime Contractor
Project Manager
Contract Bid Amount

Key:

Aggregate - Agg
Bit - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - ConPav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Seeding - Seed

District 1

Dwight North
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$1,744,067.32
Lincoln South (NB)
Gdrl, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850
\$1,667,731.88
Hallam - Spur
Bit
Pavers Companies
Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850
\$798,745.71
I-80 Milford Exit North to US-34
Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850
\$1,341,297.44
Daykin East
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489
\$1,325,716.05
Plymouth - Beatrice
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489
\$999,401.80
US-77 South Intchg. to I-180,
Lincoln
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
England, Jim (402)471-0850
\$28,886,121.30
Rulo Bridge
Br
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$230,138.00
Table Rock West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Elec, Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$2,641,879.16
Odell East & West
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$2,480,272.98

Liberty Spur East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131
\$1,278,236.26
Palmyra Maintenance Facility
Palmyra Maintenance Facility
Rogge General Contractors, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$1,362,000.00
Tecumseh West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$1,676,877.11
Brock - Lorton
Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$562,371.66
Dunbar South
Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131
\$424,754.46
One Mile West of US-77
Culv
TCW Construction, Inc.
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850
\$86,509.30
Dynamic Message Signs -
Districts 1, 2 & 3
Culv, Gdrl, Sign
Watts Electric Company
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$868,187.55
Nebraska City Scales
Specialty
Kayton Electric, Inc.
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850
\$1,126,619.20
Alvo North
Bit
Pavers Companies
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850
\$857,735.68
Wilber Northwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$413,157.97
Brownville Northwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$416,205.61
Pleasant Dale Southwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$695,844.53
Pleasant Dale Southwest
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$364,756.58
Oak Creek Bridges
Gr, ConPav, Br
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850
\$2,718,850.13

I-80 Over Cornhusker Hwy.
& BNSF Railroad
Gr, ConPav, Br
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850
\$3,871,249.32
Julian North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Mueller, Gerald (402)335-4131
\$12,645,541.65
Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln
Br
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$796,845.85
Oak Creek Bridge - US-34, Lincoln
Specialty
Sealcoat Services, Inc.
dba SCS Construction Co.
Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850
\$69,965.00
Bridge Over I-80 @ Arbor Rd.
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence
A. M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850
\$2,755,958.99
WB I-80 Exit - 27th St., Lincoln
ConPav, Elec
Watts Electric Company
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850
\$160,035.36
Hickman North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Pavers Companies
Plouzek, Jim (402)441-7681
\$1,329,000.01
David City North
Bit
Knight Asphalt, Inc.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$1,169,110.19
Seward West
Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$1,826,740.58
Seward Interchange
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$31,300.00
District 1 - Districtwide
Specialty
Gee Asphalt Systems, Inc.
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850
\$261,099.00
Otoe Northeast
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Ragoss, Stephen (402)421-1717
\$356,613.26
Nehawka West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Ragoss, Stephen (402)421-1717
\$607,270.11
Colon Northwest
Culv, Br, Gdrl
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$451,872.87

Wahoo - Cedar Bluffs
Specialty
Dustrol, Inc.
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$100,053.33
Ceresco - Wahoo & In Wahoo
Bit
Pavers Companies
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850
\$1,159,175.28
Bridge Over I-80 @ 250th St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Hawkins Construction Co.
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850
\$2,268,751.37
Ashland South & East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850
\$4,732,948.07
K & L Interchange
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850
\$10,119,343.74
Lincoln Surveyors Building
Lincoln Surveyors Building
Rogge General Contractors, Inc.
Wood, Glenda (402)479-4498
\$658,029.00

District 2

I-480 WB/US-75 NB Bridge
Over Burt St., Omaha
Gr, Mse Wall, ConPav, Culv,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534
\$17,399,999.32
174th St.-198th St., Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence Elec Sign
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Baratta, Joseph (402)595-2534
\$15,703,247.66
Platte River East
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292
\$8,790,130.15
Blair - Kennard
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292
\$4,244,619.96
In Arlington
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$576,984.60
Washington Northeast
Br
MCC, LLC
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$341,841.83

Hooper Northeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Commercial Construction, Inc.
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661
\$788,603.56

Missouri River Bridge, Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Br, Gdrl
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$998,891.58

Maple St. - Fort St., Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$15,416,759.67

Bridge Over I-680 @ Sprague St.
Gr, Br
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534
\$1,094,339.95

Automated Work Zone System
Specialty
Watts Electric Company
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$466,115.00

Gretna Southwest
Elec
Watts Electric Company
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$52,506.60

Melia Hill WB Rest Area
Bldg
Judds Bros. Construction Co.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$937,525.33

Gretna Interchange South
Specialty
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$448,620.82

N-370 to Ruff Rd.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534
\$39,143,149.79

108th St., Burt - W. Maple Rd.,
Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Glow, Tom (402)444-5279
\$3,040,849.70

Hooper East & West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292
\$22,401,622.91

Elkhorn South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534
\$2,939,945.00

Fremont Southeast
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466
\$682,980.69

60th St. Interchange on I-80
ConPav
Hawkins Construction Co.
Lech, Marvin (Marv) (402)595-2534
\$628,598.22

Papillion West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
MCC, LLC
Peterson, Roger (402)255-3831
\$2,214,618.79

I-80 - Maple St., Omaha
Specialty
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Rankin, Robert (402)595-2534
\$487,163.00

Blair Vehicle Shop & Office Facility
Blair Vehicle Shop & Office Facility
Graham Penn-Co Construction, Inc.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$491,300.00

Fremont - Nickerson
Specialty
Diamond Surface, Inc.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$2,056,085.64

US-77 & Cloverly Rd.
ConPav
Sealcoat Services, Inc.
dba SCS Construction Co.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$25,291.86

US-77/Washington St., Fremont
ConPav
Sealcoat Services, Inc. DBA SCS
Construction Co.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$27,017.90

In Blair
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$6,183,447.41

Arlington East
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$224,579.44

Colfax/Dodge Co. Line - Snyder
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292
\$221,947.65

I-680 to N-36, Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Hawkins Construction Co.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$12,915,674.88

Fremont East Bypass
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292
\$26,555,563.32

Waterloo Southeast
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534
\$20,452,885.99

Springfield North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br, Elec
Cedar Valley Corp. & Subsidiaries
Wilson, Bill (402)595-2534
\$10,491,763.71

West Dodge Rd., 132nd-120th St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$5,021,822.65

West Dodge Rd. (WB) Expressway
Bridge 108th-120th St.
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br,
Spec, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$62,989,885.92

WB Bridges Over 108th St., Omaha
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign
Hawkins Construction Co.
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534
\$8,432,214.45

District 3

US-30/23rd St., Columbus
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec, Sign
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$1,563,013.98

33rd Ave., 24th-27th St.,
In Columbus
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$843,569.09

Columbus Viaduct
Br
Cement Products, Inc.
Anderson, David (402)564-5751
\$197,257.40

Osmond East
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$2,062,925.73

Wynot West
Br
Graves Construction Co., Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$368,958.07

Wynot Southeast
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Dixon Construction Co.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$677,721.82

East Jct. US-20 to Wausa
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552
\$1,243,013.43

East Jct. US-275 North
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071
\$1,671,881.21

Pender - Walthill
Bit
Brower Construction Co.
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071
\$1,336,223.90

Pierce Southeast
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$2,275,252.29

Jct. N-32 @ Madison North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$4,303,856.85

Newcastle Maintenance Facility
Newcastle Maintenance Facility
Radec Construction Co. Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$513,300.00

Homer South
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Graves Construction Co., Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$550,079.23

US-77 - US-75
Bit
Brower Construction Co.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$1,391,265.25

In Winnebago
Elec
Kayton Electric, Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$13,755.50

Jct N-35/N-110 East of Hubbard
Elec
Dominion Construction Co.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$10,828.15

Neligh North
Elec
Dominion Construction Co.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$26,578.00

Bancroft East & West
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$1,013,312.71

Foster Southeast
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$132,962.52

Pender West & North
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474
\$485,454.28

Homer South
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Mead, Terry (402)371-6416
\$477,326.99

South Jct. N-98 to US-20
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$2,125,287.64

Norfolk North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$8,592,417.11

Albion Equipment Storage Facility
Albion Equipment Storage Facility
J. H. Hespe Company, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$286,643.00

Albion Northeast
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$1,562,233.05

In Cedar Rapids & North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$2,046,965.84

Albion West
Culv
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$395,974.24

Ponca South
Br
Dixon Construction Co.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$355,382.18

Laurel North & East
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$2,152,166.07

Carroll North & South
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$1,429,240.49
In South Sioux City
Br
Herbst Construction, Inc.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$68,868.20

District 4

York North & South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$18,182,230.53
Kearney - Wood River
Specialty
Micheels Construction Co.
Catlett, Terry (308)385-6265
\$410,403.70
Elm Creek South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Fence Elec Sign
Paulsen, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$7,497,827.44
Kearney North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$5,884,195.46
Miller - Amherst
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$2,782,060.37
Merrick Co Line West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.
& Affiliates
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$5,123,897.10
In Phillips
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888
\$246,505.19
Milligan North
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$655,235.70
In East Osceola
Br
Wilke Contracting Corporation
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934
\$673,537.85
Deshler North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$3,118,894.97
In Genoa East & North
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$3,727,114.59
Glenvil Spur - Fillmore/Saline Line
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$621,127.00

Chapman North
Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$931,528.21
Grand Island West
Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$380,521.40
District 4 - Districtwide
Specialty
Gee Asphalt Systems, Inc.
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265
\$457,984.89
Lushton Northwest
Bridge
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Rathjen, Scott (402)362-7117
\$344,221.40
Wood River Interchange
Br
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996
\$1,588,201.27
Hebron Vehicle Storage Addition
Hebron Vehicle Storage Addition
Caspers Construction Co.
Sander, Gary (308)385-6265
\$628,606.00
Ravenna Viaduct
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$4,212,903.12
Grand Island South
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl,
Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$9,800,324.79
Platte River East of Grand Island
Bridge Repair
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888
\$420,735.87
Clarks South Bridges
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Hawkins Construction Co.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$3,468,746.45
Greeley North & South
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$4,164,060.68
St. Paul North
Specialty
Werner Construction, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$327,732.90

District 5

Beltline Hwy. South In Scottsbluff
Gr, ConPav
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$172,059.33
Scottsbluff - Gering Bypass
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,
Gdrl, Fence Elec Sign
Upper Plains Contracting, Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429
\$8,398,848.08
Minatare Lake Recreation Rd.
Gr, Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Baker, Jack (308)632-3123
\$2,222,124.99

Harrison Maintenance Facility
Harrison Maintenance Facility
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$445,000.00
Harrison Salt Storage Facility
Harrison Salt Storage Facility
Paul Reed Constr. & Supply, Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$57,880.00
In Chadron & West
Specialty
Kirk Barnes Construction, Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$412,960.20
Hay Springs - Rushville
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,950,656.26
Ellsworth North
Gr, Culv, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$3,393,653.37
Oshkosh Northwest
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Ames Construction, Inc.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$5,792,419.67
Potter South
Br
Perrett Construction, Ltd.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$284,351.15
Northport Intersection
Specialty
Kirk Barnes Construction, Inc.
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$115,631.99
Bayard East
Gr, ConPav, Culv
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L. (308)262-1920
\$394,926.67
Bayard East
Specialty
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L. (308)262-1920
\$327,723.62
Gering - Scottsbluff
Specialty
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L. (308)262-1920
\$423,224.86
Scottsbluff West
Specialty
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L. (308)262-1920
\$284,222.46
Oshkosh South
Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Johnson, James (308)632-1429
\$319,217.45
Big Springs West
ConPav, Br, Gdrl
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Johnson, James (308)632-1429
\$2,181,336.39
N-71 East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-7727
\$3,306,776.73

Harrisburg Spur
Culv, Seed, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-7727
\$585,809.44
Kimball North
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-7727
\$1,558,528.04
Scottsbluff - Minatare
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-7727
\$8,552,774.73

District 6

Wellfleet South
Br
Reiman Corp.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$73,825.20
Brady South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$9,965,526.75
Cozad - Lexington
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$498,624.50
Overton North
Gr
Van Kirk Sand & Gravel, Inc.
Leach, Roy (308)535-8033
\$90,791.34
Jct. US-83/S-56B
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Cement Products, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$1,838,227.40
Maxwell - Gothenberg
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$5,002,118.46
US-26/US-30, Ogallala
Elec
Dominion Construction Co.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$12,698.50
I-76 Interchange
Br
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$443,900.24
In Ogallala
Specialty
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$361,885.09
Ogallala South
Specialty
Brown & Brown, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$503,994.88
Ogallala West
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033
\$2,337,388.51
Lemoyne - West
Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$2,999,216.95

Big Springs North
Elec
Dominion Construction Co.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$21,228.90

Thedford North
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$2,114,816.46

Arthur North
Specialty
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$219,777.20

North Platte North
Specialty
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$757,734.10

North Platte Southeast
Br
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Stadler, Lisa (308)345-3710
\$453,120.85

Overton Link
Gr, Mse Wall, Culv, Seed,
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$6,365,563.52

Stapleton Salt Shed
Stapleton Salt Shed
Robert J. McKenzie
dba McKenzie Construction Co.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$95,698.00

Dynamic Message Signs -
Districts 4, 5 & 6
Gdrl, Sign
Watts Electric Company
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$819,302.90

Callaway- Oconto
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$3,072,385.62

Merna - Broken Bow
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$1,108,140.34

Anselmo Northwest
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$1,944,507.48

Eddyville East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$3,728,873.15

Anselmo East
Gr, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$789,537.87

District 7

E. 7th St. East, McCook
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490
\$2,853,608.66

Enders Spillway Bridge
Br
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$161,429.57

Enders - Wauneta
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$1,824,892.65

Colorado/Nebraska Line East
Gr, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$2,401,264.46

Swanson Reservoir Rec. Rd. -
Trenton
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490
\$96,194.79

Eustis Southwest
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$351,165.05

Alma - Republican City
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397
\$8,976,048.42

In Huntley
Culv
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$106,469.00

Jct N-10/N-4 to Minden
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$262,642.32

Oxford South
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$152,839.00

District 7 - Districtwide
Specialty
Vogel Traffic Services, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$837,732.56

Elsie - Perkins/Lincoln Co. Line
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$1,416,949.87

Madrid - Elsie
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$2,147,981.18

Grant - Keith Co Line
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$303,833.83

McCook North & South
Specialty
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$218,178.00

Imperial Equipment Storage Bldg.
Imperial Equipment Storage Bldg.
BD Construction, Inc./Kearney
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$211,890.00

Grant Maintenance Facility
Grant Maintenance Facility
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$303,100.00

District 8

O'Neill Northwest
Culv
A & R Construction Co.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$113,232.60

Inman East & West
Specialty
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$262,413.00

Valentine South
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352
\$1,920,324.72

O'Neill East
Culv, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Mainelli, Mark (402)421-1717
\$1,243,214.62

Long Pine - Bassett
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$1,359,830.81

Springview Maintenance Facility
Springview Maintenance Facility
BD Construction, Inc./Kearney
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471
\$254,600.00

RoadToasters Announces New Meeting Times

Meeting times for RoadToasters have changed, according to President Mike Owen. Previously scheduled over the noon hour, the meetings normally will be held from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

RoadToasters, a speech and leadership training club, is sponsored by NDOR and affiliated with Toastmasters International. For more information about RoadToasters, or for a complete listing of meeting dates, times and locations, please contact Mike Owen at 402-479-4735 or check the RoadToasters web page at www.nebraskatransportation.org/toasters. Meeting information also is included in the Roadrunner Events Calendar. All interested NDOR employees are encouraged to attend.

RoadToasters Officers

President

Mike Owen
Roadway Design
479-4735

Vice President Education

Steve Sabra
Bridge
479-3763

Vice President Membership/ Public Relations

Paul Wisnieski
Government Affairs
479-4432

Secretary

Linda Langdale
Proj. Scheduling & Prog. Mgmt.
479-4519

Treasurer

Konstantin Bogdanov, CTM,
Bridge
479-3681

Sergeant at Arms

Janice Kollars, CTM,
Right-of-Way
479-4885

By Steve Duecker
Highway Environmental Biologist



The Easy Part

On June 7th, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission was kind enough to invite me to attend the banding of the eyas (baby) peregrine falcon at the State Capitol building. The media was there, but I'm not sure they understood the point of why this bird was so important and what it meant to me personally.

The saga actually starts about 30 years ago. The peregrine falcon population started to decline and no one knew why. It was finally discovered that the pesticide DDT had entered the female falcons' blood stream through eating contaminated prey species. Simply put, smaller birds ate contaminated insects and then were eaten by the peregrines. This had a magnifying effect on the falcons and other species at the top of the food chain. The DDT blocked blood calcium production in the female peregrines and this resulted in very thin eggshells. During normal incubation the eggs developed cracks and failed to hatch.

The end result was that no young falcons were produced to replace those adults that died from normal attrition. The decline was slow at first; then as the adult population aged and mortality increased it dropped drastically. The eastern race of the peregrine was sent to extinction.

Falconry

I need to talk a little bit about falconry to help everyone understand what happened next. Falconry is the training of falcons (or hawks) to allow you to hunt with them. This, of course, involves day-to-day management and understanding of falcons' behavior. Before the peregrines' decline, several falconers had been experimenting with breeding them in captivity. When the extent of the decline became evident, something had to be done. Many falconers were also professional biologists and planned to reintroduce captive bred peregrines to the wild. With a ban on the use of DDT, the habitat was suitable for the birds. Only one small problem—peregrines had never bred in captivity and many said it could not be done.

During this time, Don Hunter, who was my mentor in falconry, had several pairs of peregrines that had produced infertile eggs. Dr. Tom Cade (falconer) had started The Peregrine Fund at Cornell University, and

Don donated three pairs of birds to this project. Don enlisted my help with the remaining two pairs. In the third year the falcons laid fertile eggs.

I incubated the first clutch and the falcons incubated the second clutch. Peregrine eggs are very hard to hatch in an incubator. They must lose about 18 percent to 20 percent of the fresh egg weight to hatch properly, so they are weighed daily on a gram scale. After fretting about this, I finally hatched the first peregrine and called Jim Weaver at the Peregrine Fund to tell him and celebrate. Jim's first comment was, "That was the easy part."

The fresh hatched chicks were fed six times a day. Each feeding was about the size of a pea and consisted of only the softest part of a coturnix quail breast well-moistened with distilled water. Jim was right about the easy part. Soon all the breeding projects were producing young peregrines for release.

Hacking

How do you release a young peregrine in the wild? The answer was an old falconry technique called "hacking." The young birds are placed in a wooden box with a hinged front made of vertical barring so the birds can see out. They are put in the box several days before fledging, and food is provided through a chute with the human unseen by the falcons. After several days, the front is lowered and the falcons start to make early flights from the box. All of this time food is provided at the box. Eventually, the young peregrines start to catch their own food and disperse. The boxes were placed on cliffs, high buildings, towers and smokestacks. Peregrines naturally nest on cliffs, but several pairs had been naturally nesting on skyscrapers in the east before the decline.

The best part of all this effort is it worked. Now, 30 years later the peregrine has recovered and been removed from the endangered species list. We even have a nesting pair in Lincoln! I have been fortunate enough to have one as a hunting companion and to see their 237 mph stoop (dive) from high in the sky. I'm now flying a type of peregrine whose common name is Red Shaheen (falcon), just the right color for Nebraska.



NDOR Events Calendar

— August —

- 9 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 10 **RoadToasters**
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conf. Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 17 **RoadToasters – Speech Day**
12:00 p.m.-12:55 p.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conf. Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 18 **Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Rm. 153, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 8/19 – 9/5 **You Drink & Drive. You Lose. Crackdown**
www.nhtsa.gov
- 19 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conf. Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 21–27 **National Truck Driver Appreciation Week**
www.truckline.com
- 24 **RoadToasters**
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conf. Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 25 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 26 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 8/29 – 9/4 **National Stop on Red Week** www.fhwa.dot.gov

— September —

- 5 **State Holiday – Labor Day**
- 7 **Annual Rewards & Recognition Ceremony**
I-80 Holiday Inn, Grand Island
- 7-9 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Workshop: Sept. 7th, 10:00 a.m. – Sept. 9th, 2:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Kearney, Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 11 **Patriot Day**
- 13 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 14 **RoadToasters**
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 20 **Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580

- 22 **Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 23 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 23 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 28 **RoadToasters**
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 29 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528

— October —

- 3-7 **Drive Safely Work Week** www.netsnational.org/dsww.asp
- 3-7 **International Walk to School Week** www.iwalktoschool.org
- 4 **New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 6 **State Gov't Nebraska Mgmt. Exposition**
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., State Capitol; Contact Jacki Allensworth @ 479-4691 or Denise Wallman @ 479-4843
- 7 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Examination: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 10 **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day**
www.brakesonfatalities.org
- 10 **State Holiday – Columbus Day**
- 12 **RoadToasters**
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 16-22 **International School Bus Safety Week** www.napt.org
- 24-28 **Nebraska Winter Weather Awareness Week**
- 21 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m. Holiday Inn Express, Valentine
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 26 **RoadToasters**
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 28 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the October/November Roadrunner should be received by September 16.